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24 *Reports of the Dublin Institution for 1812 and 1813.* [July.

not dry up or check the source of employment and of wealth.

Let those men whose labour is useful, and particularly the most useful, enjoy the comforts of life. *A poor peasantry makes a poor kingdom.*

Require no contributions but from *clear incomes.*

Let taxes be impartial, in a regular proportion, without favour, without overburdening any individual, or any kind of produce.

Let this proportion be such, that the public revenue shall increase with the prosperity of the nation, and decrease with the diminution of its floating wealth.

Let the government feel in its exchequer the utility or danger of its proceedings.

Let it not indulge itself in any act it prohibits to others.

Let it encourage the diffusion of knowledge; for what glory can it obtain from men incapable of judging of its conduct?

Some of the preceding maxims may be thought singular for the first physician in ordinary to Lewis XV., and not well suited to the air of Versailles; but their writer had a mind that could not be corrupted by residence in a court, or the patronage of a favourite. When urged by all his relations to use his interest to procure for his son the post of a farmer-general, he nobly replied, "I will never suffer the temptation of being interested in those taxes, that check the progress of agriculture and commerce, to come within my doors. The happiness of my children shall be connected with the prosperity of the nation at large." Accordingly, he destined his son to the peaceable and honourable situation of a landed proprietor, skilfully superintending the management of a large domain; and both his son and grandson proved, by their con-

duct in it, that he was not less acquainted with the true road to happiness, than his advisers were with that to wealth. T.O.C.

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*For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.*

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ANNUAL REPORT FROM THE COMMITTEE OF THE DUBLIN INSTITUTION, TO THE GENERAL MEETING OF PROPRIETORS, HELD THE THIRD OF MARCH, 1812.

IN conformity with the Prospectus, which, on the second of March last was submitted to the first hundred proprietors, the committee, who were then appointed, have endeavoured to carry into effect the objects proposed; and they entertain a hope that, to a considerable extent, they have succeeded, without material error or defect, in fulfilling the general intentions and expectation of the respectable body which they represent.

With regard to the situation various opinions were formed; and a considerable time elapsed before the committee were so fortunate as to meet with one, within the limit of prudent expenditure, which was adapted to reconcile differing views as to personal convenience, and to answer satisfactorily the purposes intended. They have reason to believe, that the situation they have procured, accords as nearly with the wishes of the Proprietors, as could be expected among two hundred persons, whose places of residence are so widely distant from each other.

With respect to the Library, the committee have already purchased a moderate collection of the best books, in the several departments of science and literature; which, by gradual extension, as new books shall, from time to time, be recom-

mended by the members, will, it is hoped, in a few years, become a valuable instrument of diffusing useful knowledge, and long reflect credit on those with whom the Institution originated. The books at present collected are intended chiefly for the permanent library; but instructions have been given, and means are now employed, to procure a collection for circulation; which latter purpose is an object of considerable importance to a great number of the proprietors.

It is acknowledged, that notwithstanding much care has been taken to select such books as were intrinsically valuable, and as were most likely to meet general approbation, yet some may have been admitted, which many individuals may consider inferior or unimportant; but it ought to be recollected, that, to many others, such books may appear the most valuable. The Committee, in acting for those who appointed them, did not think themselves authorized to consult their own taste or opinions only, but felt it their duty to promote the views, and gratify the wishes, of as many of the members as possible, consistently with the leading purposes of the Institution. Besides, it ought not to be forgotten, that in our progress, and so far as our funds shall permit, every valuable work, duly recommended, will find a place in our library. Whether the Committee, however, have adopted, in every respect, the very best means, in forming this ground-work, is a question open, no doubt, to various opinions and various remarks; but they apprehend, that in endeavouring to fulfil expectation, they have generally, though perhaps not exactly and entirely, done the best, so far as they have proceeded.

A librarian was early appointed, who has assisted in all matters rela-

tive to the library, and has acted as secretary to the Institution; and proper persons have been appointed under him, to assist in carrying into practical effect the preparations already made. The news rooms have been open for a considerable time; the permanent library also is now open; and the circulating library, it is confidently hoped, will be very soon in a state of useful operation.

The Committee have likewise seriously attended to another object of the Institution; with many perhaps the most important object:—the establishment of lectures on the most generally useful subjects of science. After having obtained the house, the Committee soon found, that it would be impossible to appropriate any part of it to the proposed lectures, in a manner either respectable or useful: therefore, they took into consideration the propriety of building lecture-rooms at the rear; and having procured plans of such a building, and estimates of the expense of it, as also of a philosophical apparatus, (the whole of which expense amounts to a sum within £2000) they came to a resolution to build the rooms as soon as the season of the year should permit. Accordingly, preparations for the building have been actually begun; and as soon as a competent person shall be appointed lecturer, it is intended to purchase the apparatus; and in the course of next winter, it is hoped that the lectures may be commenced.

The Institution opened so late in the year, that the produce of our annual subscription amounted to £47 15s. 6d. only, whereas there are already seventy-one annual subscriptions on the books, for the present year, commencing the first of March instant, which amount to £242 5s. 9d.; and the present year will also have the benefit of

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half a year's interest on £4,500 treasury bills, payable the 25th of March instant.

From this view of our present property, it must appear, no doubt, that a considerable increase, both as to fund and annual income, will be requisite, to accomplish the original purposes of the Institution; and more especially, to fulfil the hopes of all who are anxious that the establishment should become as respectable as the metropolis of advancing Ireland ought to exhibit: but little doubt is entertained, that if future Committees take this matter into due and seasonable consideration, and judiciously and opportunely put prudent means into operation, sufficient funds will be obtained for every valuable purpose; and it is earnestly recommended, that so essential an object be early attended to; especially with respect to subscriptions of future proprietors, of future life-subscribers, and of present and future annual-subscribers.

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ANNUAL REPORT FROM THE COMMITTEE OF THE DUBLIN INSTITUTION, TO THE GENERAL MEETING OF PROPRIETORS, HELD THE THIRD OF MARCH, 1813.

**I**N presenting to the Proprietary a report of the transactions of the past year, the Committee are happy to announce the general prosperity of the Institution. Many of the objects pointed out in the original prospectus have been attained, many of the views already realized.

In addition to the ordinary details of such an establishment as this, the attention of the Committee has been directed more especially to three very important subjects, the Circulating Library, the Lectures and Apparatus, the Funds.

The books for circulation have

been chosen with care in the various walks of literature, constituting, it is believed, a selection chaste, elegant, and instructive: many volumes are at present in preparation to be placed on our shelves, and the original catalogue has recently been much increased. To augment this portion of the library department, is of essential consequence, in the more extensive diffusion of science and of taste. It may here be remarked, that the purchase of books for the permanent library has necessarily been limited; our limited finances requiring to be directed into other channels. The opening of the Circulating Library rendered the assistance of a sub-librarian indispensable; besides, the hours of attendance in the permanent library, together with other avocations of his office, made the duties of the librarian quite too burdensome: the news-rooms also stood in need of special superintendence, which has now devolved more particularly on the sub-librarian.

A spacious lecture-room, capable at present of containing 300 persons, has been erected: by the addition of galleries, it can accommodate 450. Connected with the theatre, are rooms for philosophical apparatus; for forming a cabinet of natural history; and for a chemical laboratory: the latter two it is intended to occupy, if circumstances favour; some very valuable apparatus and instruments have already been procured.

It demanded no little consideration on the part of the Committee, which of the various branches of knowledge should have precedence as subject matter of the lectures, and which would, at the outset, be most appropriate to the infant state of the Institution. Natural Philosophy was at length preferred, as at once leading the mind to the contemplation